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In the Claims

1-29. (cancelled)

30. (currently amended) The system apparatus according to Claim 34 27 further comprising a light source for said illumination beam.

31. (currently amended) The system apparatus according to Claim 34 27 wherein said window is transparent to said illumination beam.

32. (cancelled)

33. (currently amended) The system apparatus according to Claim 34 27 wherein said objective lens has a numerical aperture of less than one.

34. (currently amended) A system for imaging and diagnosing a tissue sample for pathological applications comprising:

an objective lens;

a window having a surface capable of being pressed into a contact relationship with the surface of said tissue sample;

a housing capable of being handheld having at least said objective lens and said window;

an illumination beam which is focused by said objective lens through said window to said tissue sample, in which said objective lens receives returned light from said tissue sample ~~representing a tissue section~~; and

means for detecting through an aperture said returned light representing a tissue section; and

means for displaying said tissue section to diagnose abnormalities in said tissue sample.

35. (previously presented) The system according to Claim 34 wherein said abnormalities represent a tumor.

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36. (previously presented) The system according to Claim 35 wherein said tumor represents one of carcinomas and melanomas.

37-44. (cancelled)

45. (previously presented) The system according to Claim 34 wherein said housing is positionable to locate said window in direct contact with said surface of said tissue sample.

46. (cancelled)

47. (currently amended) A microscopic imaging apparatus for imaging tissue samples for pathological applications through an objective lens, said apparatus comprising;

an objective lens;

a window having a surface that is capable being in a direct pressure contacting relationship with the surface of said tissue sample;

a housing capable of being handheld having at least said window lens in optical communication with said objective lens; and

an illumination beam which is focused by said objective lens through said window to said tissue sample, wherein said objective lens receives returned light from said tissue sample representing a tissue section; and

means for detecting through an aperture said returned light representing a tissue section.

48. (currently amended) The apparatus according to Claim 47 wherein said housing is positionable to locate said window in direct contact with said surface of said tissue sample ~~without use of suction to enable said contact.~~

49. (new) A microscopic imaging apparatus for imaging tissue samples for pathological applications through an objective lens, said apparatus comprising:

an objective lens;

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a window having a surface capable of being pressed into a contact relationship with the surface of said tissue sample in which said window is in optical communication with said objective lens;

a housing capable of being handheld having at least said objective lens and said window; and

an illumination beam, and means for scanning said illumination beam on or within said tissue in accordance with a tissue section, in which said illumination beam is focused by said objective lens through said window to said tissue sample, and said objective lens receives returned light from said tissue sample representing said tissue section.

50. (new) The apparatus according to Claim 49 further comprising a light source for said illumination beam.

51. (new) The apparatus according to Claim 49 wherein said window is transparent to said illumination beam.

52. (new) The apparatus according to Claim 49 wherein said objective lens has a numerical aperture of less than one.

53. (new) The apparatus according to Claim 49 wherein said housing is positionable to locate said window in direct contact with said surface of said tissue sample.

54. (new) The apparatus according to Claim 47 further comprising a light source for said illumination beam.

55. (new) The apparatus according to Claim 47 wherein said window is transparent to said illumination beam.

56. (new) The apparatus according to Claim 47 wherein said objective lens has a numerical aperture of less than one.